

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and a notice of allowance.

I. The Amendments

Applicants present claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 13-28. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 13-16, 20 and 22-25 are allowed. Applicants amended claims 17, 18, 26 and 27 to adapt the Examiner's constructive suggestion to insert "c)." It is courteously submitted that the editorial amendment does not limit the claim scope while obviating objection to such claims. Amended claim 19 includes a comma. Amended claim 21 is submitted to address "operatively connected." Amended claim 28 includes a comma.

II. Rule 133 Statement

Applicants' legal representative acknowledges the Examiner's courtesies during a telephone discussion conducted on September 27, 2006. The claims and amendments to the claims were discussed. It is intended that the amendments presented herein are consistent with the discussion and the Examiner's constructive suggestions in the Office Action.

III. Traversing the Formality Rejection

Applicants courteously solicit reconsideration and withdrawal of the formality rejection of claims 17-19, 21 and 26-28. As noted above, Applicants have adapted the Examiner's helpful suggestion that inclusion of c) as in amended claims 17, 18, 26 and 27 "would be remedial." Applicants similarly respectfully suggested amended claim 21 is similarly worded to now be in allowable form.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been overcome. Applicants courteously solicit a notice of allowance.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a phone call may help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call one of Applicants' undersigned attorneys.

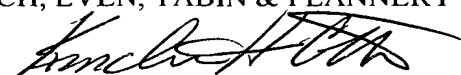
Customer No. 42798
One Lafayette Centre
1120 20th Street NW
Suite 750 South
Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 419-7000
Facsimile: (202) 419-7007

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By



Kendrew H. Colton
Reg. No. 30, 368
Michael A. Sanzo, PhD.
Reg. No. 36,912